

NFAC 1096-80

13 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office Directors, C/NIC, NIOs,
C/PME, CRES, SRP

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Production Planning

1. As agreed at the 13 February meeting on Research Production, I would ask that each of you provide me or [] with your recommendations for modifications, additions or deletions to the list of Cardinal Issues by 19 February. We will consolidate them into a final draft.

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2. I want to emphasize that this thematic approach to constructing the plan has several specific objectives which must be kept in mind as we move forward. One is to devise a structure to which we can relate the bulk of NFAC research including much of the NFAC conventional and basic research that serves as building blocks for more complex undertakings. D/NFAC continues to want a document that covers the range of NFAC research--recognizing that there continue to be different definitions of what properly constitutes research. Secondly, through the careful definition of subcategories under the Cardinal Issues, we must identify issues that will stimulate the development of multidisciplinary research that can cut across organizational and regional or functional lines. These will be a significant but relatively small portion of the overall research effort. Such projects will require new departures and will possibly reveal weaknesses in our ability to deal with more imaginative and complex issues that are of policy importance.

3. The challenge to the working groups will be to develop a mix of issues that relate these separate categories of research and yet not simply be a shopping list covering all

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the work that NFAC has traditionally done. This will require dedication and imagination on the part of the groups. I would endorse the proposal set forth at the meeting that some review at the policy level of the subcategories would be useful. In addition, D/NFAC will be reviewing and prioritizing the issues in the framework.



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